

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252405

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. FOR BILL BROWN FROM MCCALL: HARRY THAYER PLANS PRIVATE VISIT TO MOSCOW NOV. 14 TO 16 WITH NEW BRIDE. HOTEL INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE. YOU AND HE SHOULD OVERLAP IN PEKING. IF NOT HE WILL BE IN TOUCH.

2. FOR GROSS: YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT RAV TOV IS ESTABLISHING ITSELF AS A REGULAR VOLAG. APPARENTLY IT IS MEETING SOME RESISTANCE FROM PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IT BEST TO HAVE JUST ONE JEWISH VOLAG, AND RAV TOV BELIEVES IT IS SPECIFICALLY MEETING SOME RESISTANCE FROM US MISSION GENEVA. RAV TOV CLAIMS THAT WHEN IT QUESTIONED GENEVA ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT OF SOME OF THEIR CASES TO HIAS, GENEVA REPLIED THAT THE FAMILIES HAD ASKED FOR HIAS IN MOSCOW AND OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAD ASSIGNED THEM TO HIAS. THERE
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MAY BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT WE BELIEVE WE AND YOU SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS ISSUE. WE TRY TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT, AND IT IS UP TO GENEVA TO ASSIGN THE VOLAG. YOU MIGHT KEEP THIS ISSUE IN MIND, HOWEVER, IN DRAFTING CABLES TO GENEVA ASKING FOR VOLAG ASSISTANCE--WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO SIMPLY ASK FOR JEWISH VOLAG ASSISTANCE AND NOT SPECIFY HIAS.

3. I TRUST THE AMBASSADOR NOW HAS THE REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING WITH TOLYA, WHICH WAS DELAYED ALONG THE WAY.

4. THE GOVERNORS' DELEGATION IS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL--SHOULD HAVE A DECISION SOON.
VANCE

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